

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 176147

20

ORIGIN ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/NTB/WT:RROCHLIN;BLM

APPROVED BY ACDA/NTB:TDDAVIES

----- 031686

R 160022Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 176147

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: IAEA, PARM, TECH, EG

SUBJECT:QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT: VISIT BY CER REPRESENTATIVE

REF: CAIRO 3836

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT OF CAIRO 5797 DTD 29 APR 76 FROM AMEMBASSY CAIRO:

1. LEO VAN DER HARST, SENIOR STAFF ENGINEER, CER GEONUCLEAR CORPORATION CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 27 IN CONNECTION WITH HIS COMPANY'S INVOLVEMENT IN QATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT. SPECIFICALLY VAN DER HARST WANTED TO REFUTE STATEMENT MADE BY ABAZA (REFTEL), THAT CER HAD QUESTIONED CREDENTIALS OF JOHNSON AND FIELDS, U.S. MEMBERS OF QATTARA DEPRESSION BOARD OF ADVISORS. HE SAID HIS COMPANY HAD

RECEIVED LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. VAN DER HARST SAID HE HAD TALKED TO ABAZA LAST ON FEBRUARY 7; AT THAT TIME NAMES OF JOHNSON AND FIELDS WERE NOT KNOWN AND HE (VAN DER HARST) COULD NOT HAVE MADE STATEMENTS WHICH ABAZA INDICATED WERE MADE. AMBASSADOR SAID VAN DER HARST HAD NOT BEEN MENTIONED BY NAME, ONLY THAT CER REP HAD

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 176147

RAISED QUESTION. VAN DER HARST CLAIMED THAT HE IS ONLY

CER EMPLOYEE WITH CONTACT WITH GOE. VAN DER HARST FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAD CONFRONTED ABAZA WITH STATEMENTS APRIL 25 AND THAT ABAZA HAD DENIED HE MENTIONED CER IN THIS CONNECTION.

2. AMBASSADOR TOLD VAN DER HARST THAT HE APPRECIATED THIS INFORMATION AND THAT HE WOULD REPORT MATTER FOR THE RECORD. AMBASSADOR OPINED THAT IN MAKING STATEMENTS TO EMBOFF, ABAZA MAY HAVE WANTED TO PUT CER IN THE MIDDLE FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES; THIS HAD HAPPENED BEFORE IN EGYPT.

3. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION VAN DER HARST EXPLAINED HIS COMPANY'S INVOLVEMENT IN QATTARA PROJECT. CER IS FULL PARTNER IN FEASIBILITY STUDY GROUP WHICH INCLUDES GERMAN AND U.S. FIRMS. CER CONTRACT FOR 30 MONTH, FIRST-STAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY WORTH ONE MILLION DOLLARS. VAN DER HARST EMPHASIZED THAT THIS IS FIRST STAGE FEASIBILITY STUDY IN WHICH BASIC CONCEPTS OF QATTARA PROJECT ARE BEING EXAMINED. STUDY BASED ON BASSLER REPORT OF 1973. SECOND STAGE STUDY IS SCHEDULED TO FOLLOW, WHICH WILL LAST APPROXIMATELY ANOTHER 30 MONTHS. IF PROJECT IS PROVED FEASIBLE THEN 18-24 MONTH PROJECT DEFINITION PERIOD WILL BE NECESSARY. VAN DER HARST WOULD NOT PREJUDGE OUTCOME THIS FIRST STAGE SAYING STUDY ONLY IN SIXTH MONTH AND THAT NO JUDGMENT RE CRUCIAL CONCERN OF COST/EFFECTIVENESS COULD BE GIVEN.

4. VAN DER HARST EXPRESSED HIS OPINION THAT USE OF PNES FOR QATTARA PROJECT DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT POSSIBLE CONTRAVENTION U.S. NUCLEAR TREATY OBLIGATIONS. VAN DER HARST CITED RECENT TESTIMONY BY DEAN RUSK TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE SAYING THAT DIGGING OF CANAL OR OTHER NATIONAL USES WOULD NOT REPRESENT NPT CONTRAVENTION. HE WAS LESS SPECIFIC AS TO LTB PROVISIONS. ADDITIONALLY VAN DER HARST SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK SUCH TREATY CONCERNS WAS REASON FOR DECLINE IN USG'S PNE PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT PLOWSHARE PROGRAM, WHICH NEVER REALLY ENVISAGED PROJECT OF QATTARA TYPE, WAS PHASED OUT BECAUSE OF THE

LACK OF TECHNICAL SUCCESS WHICH WAS OBTAINED IN TWO GAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 176147

RESERVOIR STIMULATION PROJECTS IN WESTERN U.S. HE SAID THAT QATTARA PROJECT ENVISAGES DIFFERENT CONCEPTS AND DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF FEASIBILITY STUDY SHOULD BE LOOKED AT SEPARATELY. IN REGARD TO PASSAGE OF RADIO-ACTIVE MATERIAL OVER NATIONAL BOUNDARIES, VAN DER HARST SAID THAT PART OF HIS CURRENT STUDIES IS TO DETERMINE IF THERE WERE NOT SOME WAY TO KEEP CLOUD OVER EGYPTIAN TERRITORY FOR POSTULATED TWO-DAY DANGER PERIOD. HE ENVISAGES

TAKING ADVANTAGE OF WIND PATTERN TO DEVELOP "WINDOW"
DURING WHICH EXPLOSIONS WILL BE DETONATED. AMBASSADOR
ASKED WHAT CONSEQUENCES IN DOMESTIC IMPACT WOULD BE FOR
EGYPT. VAN DER HARST SAID THIS WOULD BE UP TO EGYPT TO
DECIDE.

5. COMMENT. VAN DER HARST STRIDENT IN DENYING ABAZA
COMMENTS. WE SUSPECT ABAZA MOTIVES ARE TO HAVE SOMEONE
THROUGH WHICH TO EXPRESS HIS OWN RESERVATIONS REGARDING
TWO U.S. EXPERTS. RE PROJECT ITSELF, CLEARLY WE ARE AT
VARIANCE WITH VAN DER HARST IN INTERPRETATION OF OBLIGA-
TIONS UNDER TREATIES CONCERNING USE OF PNE'S IN THIS CASE.
VAN DER HARST MAINTAINED IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION ON
THIS DIFFERENCE WITH EMBOFFS HE HAS TOLD ABAZA THAT SUCH
PROBLEMS WITH AGREEMENTS SHOULD NOT BE OF CONCERN TO GOE
AT THIS POINT, SINCE THERE ARE MONTHS TO GO IN FEASIBILITY
STUDY. KISSINGER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSULTANTS, MEETINGS, PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, QATTARA DEPRESSION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE176147
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RROCHLIN:BLM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760274-0553
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760748/aaaabpso.tel
Line Count: 132
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CAIRO 3836
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ATTARA DEPRESSION PROJECT: VISIT BY CER REPRE- SENTATIVE
TAGS: PARM, TECH, EG, IAEA, (VAN DER HARST, LEO)
To: BONN IAEA VIENNA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006